

NEW SECTION

**WAC 434-208-1301 Minor party and independent candidate presidential conventions conducted during the COVID-19 state of emergency in 2020.** (1) For purposes of this rule, a convention, as defined in RCW 29A.56.600, is an organized meeting or meetings of registered Washington voters supporting minor political party or independent candidates for president and vice president.

(2) In 2020, a minor party or independent candidate convention conducted virtually will be accepted.

(3) If the convention is held virtually, the notice required by RCW 29A.56.620 may be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Washington state county in which the virtual convention will be hosted or in which the candidate reasonably anticipates that at least one attendee resides. For a virtual convention, the notice must include information on how interested attendees can register to attend the convention and the mailing address of the person or organization sponsoring the convention.

(4) The nominating petition requirements of RCW 29A.56.630, 29A.56.640, and 29A.56.650 must be observed.

(5) Attendees of a virtual convention must have a hard copy of the nominating petition, and they must provide their printed name, address, and original signature. Signatures must be submitted to the secretary of state together with the nominating petition. Digital or digitized signatures will not be accepted on the nominating petition forms.

(6) This emergency rule is adopted in light of the impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the ability of individuals to gather for organized meetings. This emergency rule does not alter the agency's longstanding interpretation that a convention must occur in-person in all other situations.

(7) All other requirements for minor party and independent candidates for president and vice president remain in effect.